

COUNTRY East Germany ~~Approved For Release 2002/07/15 : CIA-RDP80-00810A001100590006-9~~
TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

25X1X	EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1C
25X1C	DATE OF CONTENT	DATE OBTAINED	PREPARED 9 April 1953
REFERENCES			
PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 2 sketches			
REMARKS			
25X1X			

25X1X

☐ 1. Between 2 and 4 p.m. on 26 and 27 January 1953, there was intensive air activity over Cottbus. It appeared that a new phase of training was reached as mostly Yak-18s practiced flying in elements of two which led alternately and continuously changed the altitude.

25X1X

☐ 2. A member of the VPL who wore a golden wing on his collar patches stated that this insignia was issued to all members of the VPL after the first flight examination.

☐ 3. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between early January and 14 February:

Early January. Aerobatics were made by Yak-18s which flew banks, loopings and steep-bank flights to the left and right with light curves. Aircraft observed at the field included 18 Yak-18s, 3 biplanes, 1 twin-engine plane with the white No 12 and, occasionally, swept-back jet fighters.

Early February. Air activity changed from take-off and landing practices to aerobatics and formation flying. The take-offs were made on the grass next to the runway while the landings were made on the runway. Before air activity started, the planes involved were parked north of the athletic field and, after the air activity, they were parked in front of the hangars.

10 February. During the morning, there was air activity by Yak-18s which, for the first time, took off in formation in front of the hangars. The planes headed south.

12 February. In the afternoon, formation flying was practiced by Yak-18s in elements of two. Individual take-offs were made by biplanes.

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

572

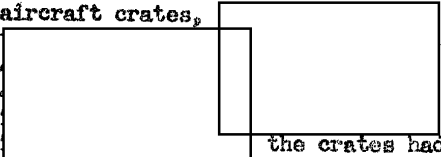
SECRET

25X1A

- 3 -

25X1X

8. Between 14 and 26 February, the following shipments arrived at the field:

Date in February	Number of Railroad Cars and Cargo	From	To
14	14 boxcars with an unidentified cargo	Jueterbog-Altes Lager	
	5 tank cars with 198, 260, 300, 300 and 620 hectoliters	Dresden Harbor	
17	7 tank cars with 190, 220, 220, 300, 300, 280 and 390 hectoliters	Dresden Harbor	
19	10 aircraft crates, including three bearing the numbers 49218, 49223 and 49229	Frankfurt/Oder, border	
	2 tractors with the numbers 05778 and 05870 at right and left sides of driver's cabins		
23	6 tank cars including 3 each with 300 and 280 hectoliters	Ruhland	
26	30 aircraft crates,  the crates had the same size and shape as those observed arriving on 19 February.	Frankfurt/Oder, border	
	7 tank cars with 166, 175, 184, 256, 290, 300 and 300 hectoliters	Dresden Harbor	

25X1C
25X1C

25X1C

25X1X

9. On 23 February, 50 to 60 aircraft ^{crates} were observed in the northeastern section of the field. Among these crates there were new crates which were arranged without any pattern. The new crates, which were recognized by the brighter timber, had arrived on 19 February. Their length was estimated at 10 to 12 meters while the old crates were 14 to 15 meters long.³

10. On 23 February, there was no air activity at the field. No activity was observed in the billeting buildings of the VPL. However, many VP men were observed in the town. Several large stationary fuel containers were observed at the field.

SECRET

SECRET,

- 4 -

25X1A

25X1X

11. In February, aircraft for training purposes and railroad cars with aircraft spare parts arrived for the VPL in Cottbus.³

25X1A

1. Comment. Cottbus airfield is occupied by the headquarters of the 1st VPL Div and the 1st Regt of this division. There was the same air activity by Yak-18s as previously. It is believed that the MIG-15s, which were occasionally observed, were flown by pilots of the Soviet instruction regiment.

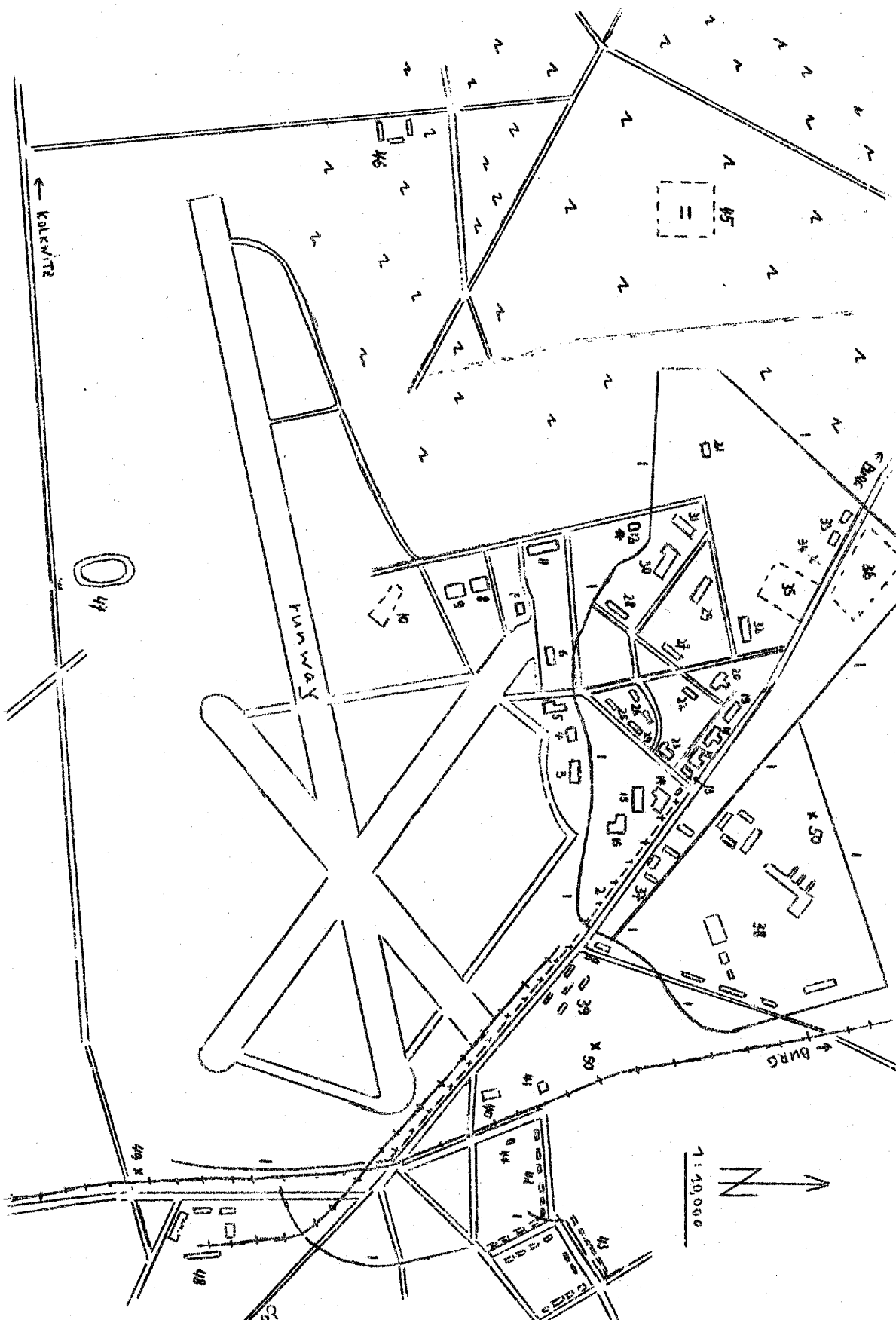
25X1A

2. Comment. For layout sketch of airfield, see Annex 1. For lack of comparable information, the correctness of the reported location of the buildings cannot be verified. It was previously known that the Soviet Air Force soldiers were mostly quartered in buildings southwest of the Cottbus-Burg road and that the VPL members housed in buildings northeast of this road.

25X1A

3. Comment. The arrival of 40 aircraft crates was previously reported. These crates differ from the previously observed MIG-15 crates by their lateral side walls. It is believed that the crates observed contained Yak-11 planes which arrived in connection with the progress in the status of training of the VP pilots. The lateral side walls possibly depend on the wing shape of the Yak-11 plane. For sketch of crate, see Annex 2.

SECRET,

Cottbus Airfield

SECRET

Annex 1 to

25X1A

25X1A

Cottbus Airfield

Legend:

- 1 Board fence, about 2 meters high
- 2 Barbed wire fence
- 3 Hangar
- 4 Hangar
- 5 Flight control station
- 6-9 Hangars
- 10 Adjustment stand
- 11 Repair hangar and workshops
- 12 Boiler house
- 13 Guardhouse with detention rooms
- 14 Boiler house for airfield
- 15 Gymnasium and workshops for craftsmen
- 16 Storehouse for billeting equipment
- 17 Kitchen, not in operation
- 18 Clothing store
- 19 Office of political commissary, instruction rooms for officers
- 20 Kitchen for flight personnel
- 21 House occupied by commanding officer at the field
- 22 Motion picture theater and meeting hall
- 23 Billeting buildings for NCOs and EM
- 24 Two-story wooden building, occupied by officers and EM
- 25 One-story brick building for NCOs and EM
- 26 One-story brick building for flight personnel
- 27 One-story brick building housing living rooms for technical officers of unit

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

Annex 1 to

25X1A

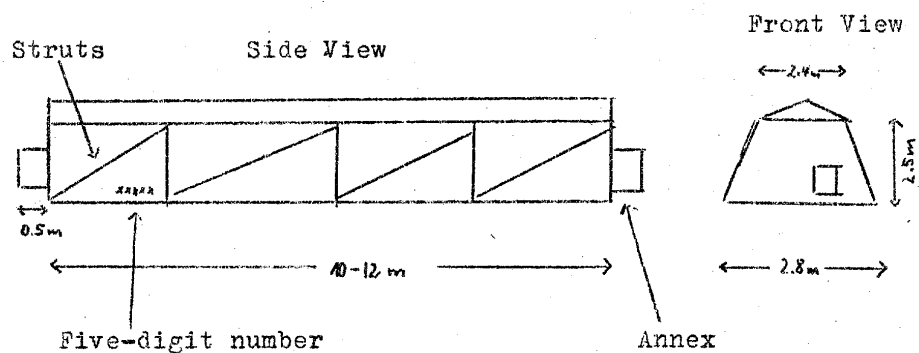
25X1A

- 28 One-story brick building occupied by NCOs and EM
- 29 Hospital
- 30 Kitchen
- 31 One-story brick building
- 32 Dwelling house of political commissary
- 33 Buildings occupied by officers and their dependents
- 34 Radar set
- 35 Motor vehicle parking lot
- 36 Fuel dump
- 37 Billets for 200 VP officers who are given flight training
- 38 Billets for VPL
- 39 Low wooden buildings occupied by VP
- 40 Low wooden buildings occupied by artisans
- 41 Transformer station
- 42 Confiscated buildings of the Windmuehlen Settlement, occupied by VP women wearing uniforms
- 43 Settlement buildings occupied by Russian women who wear no uniforms
- 44 Buildings occupied by Germans
- 45 Newly established dump, not in operation; two low wooden buildings, surrounded by a double barbed wire fence, in the middle of the dump
- 46 Farmhouses
- 47 Athletic field
- 48 Former Funk Kaserne, now occupied by AA unit
- 49 Guardhouse
- 50 High lookout posts for VP

SECRET

SECRET

Crate Probably for Yak-11 Plane



SECRET